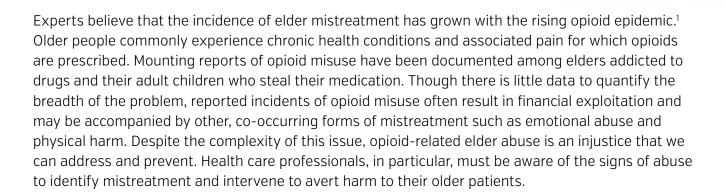
NATIONAL CENTER ON ELDER ABUSE

Red Flags of Elder Abuse

OPIOID USE



Red Flags of Opioid-Related Elder Abuse

- Evading questions about daily use of narcotics
- Losing or having medications stolen
- Displaying a decrease in functional capacity despite improvements in pain
- Exhibiting unusual changes in behavior or physical appearance
- Requesting particular medications claiming others are ineffective
- Actively pushing boundaries of chronic pain protocol structure
- Background of self-medication with prescription and illicit drugs
- Using multiple prescribers and pharmacies
- Seeking refills before schedule refill date
- Exceeding opioid dosage without physician approval

TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

- Stay updated on the risks of opioids, how and when it is appropriate to prescribe them, and appropriate alternatives to pain management.
- Educate patients and family members about the risk of abuse.
- Regularly check your state's <u>Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)</u> for prescription histories and always check prior to issuing new prescriptions.

Report suspected abuse in the community to **Adult Protective Services** and suspected abuse in long-term care facilities to the **Long-Term Care Ombudsman**. In the event of emergency, call **911**.

To connect to a local or state reporting number, contact the Eldercare Locator at <u>eldercare.acl.gov</u> or at **1-800-677-1116**.

FOR MORF INFORMATION

- Administration for Community Living Elder Justice Projects
- American Geriatrics Society Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program
- American Hospital Association
- Management of Pain in Older Adults free CEU training for medical providers
- National Center on Elder Abuse
- National Institutes of Health National Institute on Drug Abuse
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
 National Helpline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)
- US Department of Health and Human Services –
 Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force Report
- What I Should Know About Opioid Pain Medicine: Fact Sheet
 English | Spanish





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